THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government is fully alive to the needs of the country's defence preparedness. The defence procurement procedure was formulated and prescribed in 1992 by the Government. The procedure is comprehensive and includes measures to ensure that a conclusive and objective view is taken while selecting a weapon/weapon system and that extraneous factors do not influence the decision.

All steps are taken to further streamline the procurement process and to minimise the time taken in decision making. A committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Vice Chief of Army Staff to examine the existing Defence Procurement Procedures in their entirety with a view to suggest specific measures for speedier processing of acquisition cases.

Construction Works of Coast Guard at Jakhu

2755. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has asked permission from Environment Ministry for erection of quarters and construction works for coast guard at Jakhu in Kutch district;

(b) if so, what action has been taken; and

(c) since how long this matter is pending with Environment Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Coast Guard have identified 3 pieces of land at Jakhu in Gujarat for setting up a Coast Guard Station. The Government of Gujarat is willing to provide all these three pieces of land provided the Ministry of Environment and Forests' clearance is obtained for one acre of land which is situated near Jakhu Port. The Government of Gujarat have sent a proposal to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on 10th August 1999 for seeking the clearance. The additional information sought by Ministry of Environment & Forests was also furnished on 28th December 1999. Environment clearance has, however, not yet been received.